

**OPENING ADDRESS BY CHAIRPERSON
MANDLA GXANYANA**

**FISHING POLICY DEVELOPMENT
CONSULTATIVE MEETING**

**13 DECEMBER 1994
CAPE TOWN**

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON

OPENING

Ladies, Gentlemen, Comrades and friends - I greet you all.

Firstly, I must apologise for any inconvenience that may have been experienced by delegates on their way to this consultative meeting. I hope all the delegates will participate to the best of their ability in making this meeting a success for the interest of our country and those coastal communities whose livelihood depends on the marine resources.

This consultative meeting was convened to discuss two important areas of development of the fisheries policy :

1. A democratic process that guarantees maximum participation of the majority of our people in the development of the Fisheries policy;
2. To discuss the composition of the committee which will handle the development of this policy, such a committee must be a fairly representative of all the stakeholders, and our people on the ground must participate in such a committee for it to have a credibility.

BACKGROUND

On 27 October 1994 we met at the Good Hope Centre with the purpose of launching a process for developing a fisheries policy. The call of the meeting was driven by the problems and the situation faced by Fisher folk. Communities in the coastal areas are starving and living under bad conditions. These resources are not utilised to address these problems at present as stated in the RDP. The present system creates conflict between individuals and between regions.

Since the appointment of Mandla Gxanyana at the Good hope centre meeting lots of things have happened, consultation with regions, forums, organisation and individuals on how to take up this process and the formation of the committee. There was final agreement of bottom up approach. This approach encouraged region like Eastern Cape to take up the process and reported into the siting of the legislature of the Eastern Cape region. In Kwa-Zulu Natal process of creating forum have started which include all the players.

I hope this process will create a national Fishing Forum, which shall have committee in the different coastal communities, because RDP outline how our resource should be managed, that our communities are great pillar for the management of our resources.

MEMORANDUM TO THE MINISTER

FISHERIES POLICY DEVELOPMENT.

RDP

"The democratic government must ensure that all South African citizens, present and future, have the right to a decent quality of life through sustainable use of resources. To achieve this, the government must work towards:

- # equitable access to natural resources;
- # safe, healthy living and working environment and
- # a participatory decision-making process around environmental issues, empowering communities to manage their natural environment."

"Marine resources must be managed and controlled for the benefit of all South Africans, especially those communities whose livelihood depends on resources from the sea. The fishing stock must be managed in a way that promotes sustainable yield and the development of new species. The democratic government must assist people to have access to these resources. Legislative measures must be introduced to establish democratic structures for the management of sea resources."

The development of a fisheries policy is to fulfill the ideas enshrined in the Reconstruction and Development Programme not for our own selfish interest. Those who will be participating in this project must be committed and move above their own self-interest to develop a policy in the interest of the whole country as stated in the RDP.

BACKGROUND

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism convened a meeting on 27 October 1994 for the purpose of launching the development of a fisheries policy for the country.

The development of a fisheries policy was not a new thing, as it was also emphasised by the Minister in his presentation. There were also other initiatives, but the purpose of the launch was to bring together all these initiatives with the purpose of including everyone in the process.

It was very clear from the meeting that while people appreciated the development of a fisheries policy for their long term objective, their main concern was an **immediate action in addressing their poverty in the short term.**

The other area that came up sharply was the basis of the policy development. Everyone stressed that the **RDP should become the basis for the policy development**, its driving force should be directed by the ideas enshrined in the Reconstruction and Development Programme.

The Minister of Environmental Affairs and Tourism appointed Mandla Gxanyana to facilitate the process of setting up the committee and co-ordinate the development of a fisheries policy.

ADMINISTRATION

The development of a fisheries policy is a huge task, it cannot be carried by the commission only who is not working full-time. If we want to produce quality work we need to set up an administrative office. The position of the Chairperson or coordinator must be addressed - whether it should be full-time for the duration of the development of the fisheries policy.

STAFFING

It is very clear from the problems which were raised in the last meeting held at Cape Town Good Hope Centre on 27 October 1994 and also what have been appearing in the newspapers, that the co-ordination of a fisheries policy is not light work that can be co-ordinated on a part-time basis. It needs full-time co-ordination and proper administration otherwise we may add fuel to the existing problems of the industry.

The Department of Sea Fisheries which was supposed to be of assistance to this process is also under discussion at the present moment. Handing over administration to them may discredit the whole process.

Limited staff including the full-time co-ordinator to take up this project until the policy has been finalised. There are already NGO's who are prepared to second people to work on the project.

Should an office be set up, we will need to know how we are going to communicate - as an independent committee or as a committee under the Ministry of Environmental Affairs and Tourism, in particular which stationery is to be used.

A Letter of Appointment for this co-ordination task is needed from the Minister to be able to start the work.

BUDGET

The development of a fisheries policy is the work of the government. The participation of the community and other sectors of the community does not take away this responsibility from the government, it is important therefore for the Minister to indicate whether there is a budget for this project and how much is allocated.

Proposal for additional allocation

- # Minister without Portfolio (Development of the Fisheries Policy is linked to the RDP)
- # Financial institutions (There are already financial institutions indicating their willingness in participating in the development. The SBDC has funds for fisheries policy development which can be used)

STATUS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Minister needs to clarify the status of the committee before the process have been finalised.

In terms of the Act

- # whether it is a commission in terms of the act.
- # a committee in terms of the act to advise the minister.
- # a committee in terms of the RDP white paper in which there is no act linked to yet.

RELATION TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SEA FISHERIES

As we are in the process of developing a fisheries policy we would like to know our relationship with the Department of Sea Fisheries. It will be important for this development to avoid any areas of conflict where we will end up criticising one another in the newspapers.

A formalised relationship with the department will assist the committee and the co-ordinator in the smooth development of the policy and getting valuable information from the department.

It will be in the interest of the country for the department to discuss with the committee areas that will affect the policy development.

OTHER DEPARTMENT AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

The Minister have to clarify the position of the Co-ordinator in linking up with other Departments or Regional Government in this matter, e.g. in the Eastern Cape there is already a process of developing a forum and the co-ordinator met with the P.E Fishing Forum and the Government representatives.

AREAS TO BE COVERED BY THE COMMITTEE

After the appointment, and also in the presentation of the Minister there was no scope given to the committee. From the discussion of the meeting the areas raised were :

- # policy development which covers broad principles
- # restructuring of the management structures
- # legislation
- # guidelines for the Quota Board
- # development strategy for short and long term
- # Inquiry on what have been happening in the industry (Truth information)
- # The Minister should be looking at developing something for fresh water fishing

PROCESS TOWARDS FORMATION OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE

In view of the past and current problems in the industry setting up of the committee will not be an easy task. It will take longer than expected, but it is necessary for the purpose of taking everybody on board.

INTERIM COMMITTEE

On 23 November 1994 a meeting of an interim committee will be convened and the purpose of this meeting will be to discuss the setting up of the Fisheries Policy Committee and ensuring that all stakeholders and regions are properly represented on the committee.

REGIONAL AND SECTORAL WORKSHOPS

Simultaneously with the setting up of the structures for the policy development, workshops at regional and sectoral level will be conducted to develop a framework for policy development, which shall be given to the committee.

THE COMMITTEE

The first task of the committee will be setting up of the programme and the time frame for the development of the policy.

RESPONSE OF THE MINISTER

The Minister responded to the memos in terms of the following issues as follows :

Time Frame : the fisheries policy must be finalised by April 1995.

Secretariat : the Minister is proposing Mr Slater to provide secretarial services for the committee.

Composition of committee : proposing a committee of 15 members
i.e. : 5 from government
5 from business
5 from labour

Approval : the Minister have to approve the committee before being published in the media.

Finance : Government have limited resources but they will be putting up money for the process.

REPRESENTATION

It is very clear from communication with different leaders, organisation and regions that on the committee to develop the fisheries policy, all stake holders must be fairly represented, one sided representation cannot be accepted. This consultative meeting today is faced with the task of developing a structure that will ensure democratic and fair representation of all sectors in the committee to be sent up.

PROCESS

ADMINISTRATION

1. SETTING OF OFFICES

- * *EMPLOYMENT OF STAFF*
- * *FINANCIAL COMMITTEE*

PROCESS TOWARDS FORMATION OF THE POLICY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

- * *PROCESS*
- * *COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE TO DEVELOP
FISHERIES POLICY*

2. TASK TEAMS

- * *STOCK TAKING (UN ASSISTANCE)*
- * *TRUTH INFORMATION (WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN THE INDUSTRY)*
- * *COLLECTING DEMANDS OR VIEWS FOR THE POLICY*

DEVELOPMENT

*SHORT-TERM (i) INTERIM QUOTA BOARD
(ii) MEMO TO CHIEF DIRECTOR
MINISTER ON WHAT PEOPLE ARE
EXPERIENCING - SHORT TERM
DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY*

*LONG-TERM (i) DEVELOPMENT UNIT
(ii) LONG TERM DEVELOPMENT
STRATEGY AND ISSUE OF ACCESS
RIGHTS*

END JANUARY 1995

1. FIRST MEETING OF COMMITTEE

@ *DISCUSS BROAD DEMANDS OF THE PEOPLE
ON WHAT MUST BE IN POLICY*

@ *REPORT ON TRUTH INFORMATION*

@ *SETTING UP OTHER TASK TEAMS*

END FEBRUARY 1995

@ *DRAFT POLICY*

@ *TASK TEAMS* (i) *LEGISLATION*
(ii) *MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE*
(iii) *GUIDELINE QUOTA BOARD*
AND PROCESS OF APPOINTMENT

END MARCH 1995

@ *FINAL DRAFT*

@ *PROPOSED* (i) *MANAGEMENT STRUCTURES*
(ii) *LEGISLATION*
(iii) *GUIDELINES FOR QUOTA*
BOARD AND PROCESS FOR APPOINTMENT

END APRIL 1995

@ *NATIONAL WORKSHOP : POLICY*

MAY 1995

@ *NATIONAL CONFERENCE*
DOCUMENT TO :
MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS AND
TOURISM
STANDING COMMITTEE
- *ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS*
- *RDP*